United Nations A/CONF.222/RPM.2/1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 February 2014

Original: English

Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Doha, 12-19 April 2015

Report of the Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha from 3 to 5 February 2014

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/119, on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the General Assembly decided that each congress should be preceded by regional preparatory meetings.

2. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which met in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006, stressed the importance of regional preparatory meetings as a key preparatory tool for the congresses and as a conduit to incorporate regional concerns and perspectives into their preparations. The Group of Experts noted that despite globalization and the increasingly transboundary nature of criminality, different regions of the world continued to harbour different concerns, which they wanted to see properly reflected in the consideration of various topics by the congresses (E/CN.15/2007/6, para. 23).

3. In its resolution 67/184, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Thirteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States. The Assembly encouraged the relevant United Nations programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress.

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4. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress and for the Congress in a timely manner, and invited Member States to be actively involved in that process. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered a draft discussion guide at its twenty-second session. In its resolution 68/185, the Assembly took note with appreciation of the draft discussion guide and requested the Secretary-General to finalize the guide in a timely manner, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission, as well as additional comments and feedback from Member States, in order to enable the regional preparatory meetings for the Congress to be held as early as possible in 2014. The final discussion guide (A/CONF.222/PM.1) was issued in July 2013.

5. In its resolution 67/184, the General Assembly had encouraged Governments to undertake preparations for the Thirteenth Congress at an early stage and by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees. It urged participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress. In its resolution 68/185, the Assembly urged Governments to invite their representatives to examine the agenda items and workshop topics and make action-oriented recommendations and to actively participate in the regional preparatory meetings, where appropriate.

II. Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice agreed that the action-oriented recommendations presented below, reflecting the Western Asian perspective, should be considered when preparing the draft declaration to be submitted to the Congress.

A. Substantive items and workshops

1. Item 3 of the agenda of the Congress: Successes and challenges in implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and to support sustainable development

7. The Meeting emphasized the relevance of the rule of law for security, justice and human rights and stressed the crucial role of the rule of law as an enabling condition and an integral part of sustainable and equitable growth. In that perspective, the Meeting took note with appreciation of the Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law, organized by Thailand in November 2013, and stressed the need to include the rule of law, and particularly crime prevention and criminal justice elements, in the ongoing process of formulating the post-2015 development agenda. It also welcomed the youth forum which the Government of Qatar was proposing to

organize before the Thirteenth Congress to ensure the inclusion of the perspectives of young people in the work of the Congress.

8. The Meeting recognized the centrality of matters relating to crime prevention and criminal justice for the rule of law and, consequently, for social and economic development. In that regard, proper coordination was necessary among the different existing processes related to the post-2015 development agenda and the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress. The Meeting highlighted the need for UNODC, particularly in view of its expertise in both developing indicators on and measuring the rule of law, governance, violence, crime prevention and criminal justice, to be fully engaged in the related ongoing work. The role of academic institutions in collecting and analysing data on crime and its impact on development was also emphasized.

9. The Meeting recalled that the preservation and maintenance of peace, order and human rights should be considered a fundamental priority. In that respect, every effort should be made to prevent violent conflict, including through early warning mechanisms, mediation, conflict resolution and dialogue, in a spirit of solidarity and mutual understanding. In particular, areas affected by conflict needed to be given special attention when addressing the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice. UNODC was requested to continue supporting countries and areas facing conflict or post-conflict situations to strengthen the rule of law.

10. The Meeting recommended that greater emphasis should be placed on the role of education, not only at the early stage of the primary level, but also at the secondary and tertiary education levels, in order to instil shared values on the importance of the rule of law and the protection of human rights and to contribute to crime prevention.

11. The Meeting recommended that elements on crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law should be included in the United Nations common country assessments, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and their related action plans and workplans, country poverty reduction strategy papers and any other development assistance frameworks. The meeting also recommended that, considering the close link between crime prevention and criminal justice and sustainable development, indicators on security and justice should be included in the human development index in order to encourage States to enhance efforts in that regard.

12. Recognizing the importance of data collection and analysis, the Meeting also recommended that States should develop evidence-based strategies on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice reform, drawing on national crime and victimization data and statistics disaggregated by gender and age, and should include such strategies in national development plans and national budgets, by setting specific targets and objectives of crime reduction, reintegration of offenders and victims, and crime prevention. With regard to victims of crime, it was emphasized that the objective of crime prevention should be to reduce victimization and suffering of victims, in particular women and children, in accordance with the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power of 1985.

13. Finally, States were requested, in accordance with their international commitments and provisions of their national law, to include in national plans on

gender and the advancement of women, measures to address women's access to justice, as well as women's adequate representation in the criminal justice system.

Workshop 1. Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders

14. The Meeting encouraged countries to share information and good practices from promising projects to reintegrate prisoners into society. In that connection, UNODC was requested, according to its mandate, to provide more effective and comprehensive technical assistance, upon request by Member States, on that critical issue. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was encouraged to complete the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, in accordance with existing mandates.

15. The Meeting recognized that prison administrations in many countries were faced with challenges in connection with women prisoners, including pregnant women and women prisoners with young children, and Member States were invited to adopt relevant policies and measures in line with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). Recognizing the specific problem of foreign women prisoners, who were particularly disadvantaged for a number of reasons, such as that they usually received fewer family visits and less support from relatives and might have difficulties in understanding the language or adapting to the culture, and that women with children or care duties for elderly or disabled relatives could be in a more difficult situation as they might be unaware of what is happening to their families while they were awaiting trial or serving a sentence abroad, the Meeting recommended that Member States should develop policy guidance, as appropriate, on how to deal with such cases in line with the Bangkok Rules.

16. The Meeting invited Member States to promote the use of alternative measures, such as diversion and restorative justice, and ensure compliance with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children and to provide support and services for children deprived of their liberty prior to and after release in order to promote their rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.

17. Furthermore, the Meeting called on Member States and the relevant United Nations agencies to collect relevant information concerning children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law, in particular children deprived of their liberty, so as to improve administration of justice for children. In that regard, UNODC was requested, in cooperation with relevant partners, to conduct a global study on the status of children deprived of their liberty with a view to informing international and national policymakers on global trends and patterns of the size and the characteristics of the phenomenon and to develop and implement appropriate measures.

2. Item 4 of the agenda of the Congress: International cooperation, including at the regional level, to combat transnational organized crime

18. The Meeting recommended that the Thirteenth Congress should call upon Member States to adopt, in accordance with their international obligations and national legislation, flexible and practical approaches when cooperating through extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and recalled the importance of those conventions with regard to enhancing international cooperation in criminal matters.

19. It was emphasized that international cooperation in criminal matters was necessary and national authorities were urged to share information with each other. In particular, it was recommended that Member States, where appropriate, should use the Model Agreement on the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners and the recommendations on the treatment of foreign prisoners to ensure better reintegration of foreign prisoners into society.

20. The Meeting recommended that Member States continue their efforts towards reaching agreement on a mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. The Meeting also recommended exploring the most appropriate modalities to revise and update the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Transnational Organized Crime of 1994, taking into account the changing dimensions of the phenomenon of transnational organized crime and the progress made in the fight against it.

21. The Meeting recommended that Member States examine the links between transnational organized crime, corruption, terrorism and other forms of serious crime, including trafficking in drugs, environmental crime, cybercrime, financial and economic crime, trafficking in cultural property, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings. In that regard, the Meeting highlighted the complementarities of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, the Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

22. The Meeting recommended that UNODC, in accordance with its mandate, should continue to provide technical assistance to countries in the region, upon request, to increase capacity and strengthen the skills of central authorities and practitioners on international cooperation in criminal matters, especially extradition and mutual legal assistance, including through the organization of regional and subregional meetings, such as the meeting on international legal cooperation in the Gulf to combat transnational organized crime, held in Abu Dhabi from 24 to 26 June 2013, the regional meeting on building effective central authorities for international judicial cooperation in terrorism cases, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 22 to 24 January 2014, and the regional conference on international and regional cooperation to combat transnational organized crime in the Middle East and North African region, to be held in Cairo from 25 to 27 February 2014.

23. In order to more effectively implement the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, the Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

and the 18 universal legal instruments against terrorism, the Meeting recommended that Member States should review national legal frameworks and practice concerning mutual legal assistance and extradition, with the aim of harmonizing such laws with relevant international instruments and establishing competent national central authorities that are adequately funded and staffed to effectively formulate and respond to requests for extradition and mutual legal assistance.

24. States were also invited to support and strengthen international, regional and subregional networks aimed at facilitating regional and interregional cooperation, keeping in mind the importance of informal as well as formal methods of cooperation with a view to enhancing their efficiency. The Meeting also recognized the importance of regional cooperation to enable direct and efficient exchange of information and experience between judicial authorities and central authorities. Furthermore, the Meeting recommended that States consider within such networks the use of videoconferencing and other related technologies for obtaining the testimony of witnesses and experts.

25. Furthermore, the Meeting recommended that the revision of the Model Treaty on Extradition and the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters should be explored, to keep them abreast of new and emerging challenges. The Meeting further recommended the update of related manuals and technical assistance tools, including databases of national authorities and regulations, as necessary, with a view to reflecting recent developments in the field of international cooperation in criminal matters and to ensure more effective cooperation.

Workshop 2. Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants: successes and challenges in criminalization, in mutual legal assistance and in effective protection of witnesses and trafficking victims

26. The Meeting encouraged continued regional and subregional cooperation, including within the frameworks of the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council, in the area of action against human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. The principle of shared responsibility was highlighted, including the need to share information and provide assistance to source countries to prevent illicit flows of people.

27. Recognizing the centrality of the Organized Crime Convention and its additional Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons in addressing the criminal phenomena of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, the Meeting invited Member States that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to those legal instruments. The Meeting also recommended that Member States should continue to review and, as appropriate, strengthen their relevant legislation, including criminal legislation, and establish as criminal offences the acts covered by the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Organized Crime Convention, including by introducing appropriate sanctions commensurate with the nature and gravity of the offence concerned.

28. The Meeting further highlighted that although the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons might, in some cases, share some common features, Member States were recommended to consider them distinctly and adopt, as appropriate, separate legal, operational and policy responses, drawing on their commitments in

the relevant provisions of the respective Protocols to the Organized Crime Convention.

29. The Meeting also recommended that, pursuant to article 20 of the Organized Crime Convention, and in accordance with national legislation, Member States should make use of special investigative techniques in cases relating to smuggling of migrants or trafficking in persons as an effective means to gather intelligence and evidence.

30. Finally, the Meeting encouraged Member States to consider, when applicable under their national legislation, making smuggled migrant victims and victims of trafficking eligible for local witness protection programmes in order to encourage their cooperation and testimony, as well as to facilitate successful investigations, prosecutions and convictions of criminals. In the context of capacity-building for criminal justice practitioners, these should be made aware of the fact that smuggled migrants might have been victims of exploitation and other crimes and might become victims of trafficking in persons at destination points.

31. The Meeting requested that the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons should be invited to participate in Workshop 2 so as to share their experience in the area of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

3. Item 5 of the agenda of the Congress: Comprehensive and balanced approaches to prevent and adequately respond to new and emerging forms of transnational crime

32. The Meeting identified as priorities for the Western Asian region three types of new and emerging forms of transnational crime: cybercrime, trafficking in cultural property, and trafficking in human organs and trafficking in persons for organ removal. In that regard it was recommended that Member States should cooperate with UNODC to develop criminal research and methodologies on new forms of crime, including environmental crime, to identify the nature and profile of perpetrators, the socioeconomic and structural drivers of such forms of crime, and the extent to which new and emerging forms of crime are facilitated by corruption.

33. In addition, the Meeting recommended that Member States should review, in accordance with their commitments under international instruments, national criminalization and procedural law frameworks for the investigation and prosecution of new and emerging forms of transnational crime, in particular economic and financial crimes, as well as environmental crime, due to their disastrous consequences on society and on the planet. It was recommended that efforts should be made to avoid impunity and eliminate safe havens for such criminal conduct, to obtain an effective balance between deterrence and prevention, and to provide for timely and appropriate international cooperation.

34. Member States expressed concern about the increased threat posed by cybercrime, including cyber attacks against national institutions and the private sector, and the use by criminals of the "dark net" and "virtual coin" transactions. Particular attention should be given to protecting children from online sexual exploitation and abuse. The Meeting further recommended that an international convention against cybercrime should be developed.

35. The Meeting recommended that States should develop specific legislation in accordance with their commitments under international instruments to prevent and combat trafficking in cultural property, including for the punishment of traffickers, in line with international and regional instruments. In that regard UNODC was requested to update the model treaty for the prevention of crimes that infringe on the cultural heritage of peoples in the form of movable property.

36. It was further recommended that States, in cooperation with UNODC, should collect and analyse data and information on national patterns of trafficking in human organs and trafficking in persons for organ removal. It was recommended that States should assess the extent to which existing national legislative frameworks addressed trafficking in human organs and trafficking in persons for organ removal, and should consider enhancing their response to such trafficking by, inter alia, strengthening cooperation between criminal justice and health-care systems.

37. The Meeting welcomed the efforts to develop the guidelines for crime prevention and criminal justice responses with respect to trafficking in cultural property and other related offences, expected to be adopted at the twenty-third session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Workshop 3. Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to evolving forms of crime, such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, including lessons learned and international cooperation

38. The Meeting recommended that Member States should strengthen international cooperation in fighting trafficking in cultural property, including through joint investigations in accordance with their commitments under the relevant provisions of the Organized Crime Convention. Member States should develop and implement comprehensive responses to the problem of trafficking in cultural property, so as to further strengthen the prevention of such crime, as well as its investigation, prosecution and adjudication, in particular in States in exceptional circumstances, including those experiencing conflict or security disturbances.

39. It was recommended that Member States should improve their capacity to collect data related to trafficking in cultural property, in particular trafficking that involved organized criminal groups, and to share those data with UNODC for analysis and reporting, so as to enhance the international response to trafficking in cultural property. The particular threat posed by conflict to the protection of cultural heritage was highlighted.

40. Member States should identify best practices for the improvement of coordination in developing a comprehensive response to the problem of cybercrime, taking into possible consideration harmonization of national laws to strengthen investigation and prosecution of cybercrime and international cooperation in that regard. UNODC was encouraged to continue its efforts in the area of cybercrime, including online child sexual exploitation.

41. The Meeting recommended that Member States should improve their capacity to track and prevent cybercrime, in particular through the development of educational tools and public awareness campaigns, with the support of UNODC.

42. The meeting requested UNODC to provide technical assistance, upon request, to States in the region to support national programmes in line with international instruments to respond to new and evolving forms of crime.

4. Item 6 of the agenda of the Congress: National approaches to public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice

43. The relevance of strengthening the capacities of police services to perform the functions of community police, who work closely with citizens in identifying ways to prevent crime and violence, in particular in vulnerable communities, was also recognized.

44. The Meeting recommended that States should create or improve e-government systems, whereby citizens are able to convey their views on security and justice matters that affect them to the relevant authorities and have access to information and services.

45. The Meeting invited Member States to review good practices in designing and implementing effective crime prevention strategies, plans and programmes that ensure the involvement of all parts of society in strengthening the performance of the criminal justice system, as well as the services to be provided to the communities concerned. In that connection, special attention should be given to the role of young people in crime prevention, not only through appropriate educational programmes, but also through their involvement and effective participation.

46. UNODC was requested to support civil society in the region, in particular youth organizations, to become more involved in crime prevention, and to provide training to such organizations in combating organized crime.

47. The Meeting also underlined the importance of providing and partnering with community initiatives for the prevention of crime and the social reintegration and rehabilitation of offenders, and encouraging, inter alia through tax benefits or other incentives to enterprises, the active participation of the business sector in social inclusion programmes and employability schemes for vulnerable members of society and those released from prison.

48. Furthermore, the Meeting recommended that UNODC should continue to provide technical assistance to Member States upon request in the area of public participation in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Workshop 4. Public contribution to crime prevention and raising awareness of criminal justice: experiences and lessons learned

49. Member States were encouraged to share best practices and exchange information on the participation of the private sector in crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as the fundamental role of education and participation of young people.

50. The Meeting recommended that Member States should recognize and assess the role of traditional and new media in the development of policies and programmes to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice. Countries were also encouraged to develop strategies for addressing positive and potentially negative outcomes from the growth in the use of social media.

B. Other issues

51. The representative of Qatar, the host country of the Thirteenth Crime Congress, gave a presentation on the state of progress of all actions required for the timely and efficient preparations for the Congress. In particular, he illustrated the web page dedicated to the Congress in Qatar, which was launched by the Prime Minister during the meeting.

52. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) made a presentation on the provisions and monitoring system of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.

53. The observer for the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council delivered a presentation on the arrangements and facilities for the organization of the ancillary meetings during the Thirteenth Congress.

III. Attendance and organization of work

A. Date and venue of the Meeting

54. The Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Doha from 3 to 5 February 2014.

B. Attendance

55. The following member States of the Economic Commission for Western Asia were represented at the Meeting: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

56. The following United Nations entities were represented by observers: UNODC and WHO.

57. The following institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network were represented by observers: Naif Arab University for Security Sciences and International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

58. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and League of Arab States.

59. The World Society of Victimology, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, was represented by an observer. The following other non-governmental organizations were also represented by observers: the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development and the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre.

60. A list of participants was circulated at the Meeting in document A/CONF.222/RPM.2/INF/2.

C. Opening of the Meeting

61. The Western Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was opened on 3 February 2014 by Abdullah Yousuf al-Maal, Legal Adviser to the Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior of Qatar. Opening statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the Congress, the Secretary of the Meeting, the UNODC Regional Representative for the Middle East and North Africa and the UNODC representative to the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

62. The Executive Secretary of the Congress, speaking on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC, recalled that a global period of reflection on the Millennium Development Goals was under way with political and business leaders and development practitioners. He explained that there had been a growing realization that transnational and serious organized crime and weak rule of law were major threats to social and economic development the world over, and that these had hindered and challenged governance systems of States and their ability to make progress in attaining the Goals. He emphasized that the recognition of the rule of law as both an outcome and enabler of development would represent a significant advance in the development discourse.

63. The Executive Secretary explained that UNODC was taking an integrated approach through its network of field offices in regions and countries around the world, which was also helping to mainstream crime and justice issues in the development agenda. The major role played by the Crime Congress in driving discussion around current challenges, as well as giving States an opportunity to debate international standards and policy in crime prevention and criminal justice, was highlighted. Finally, he personally commended the Government of Qatar for offering to host the Regional Preparatory Meeting and the Congress itself and for planning well in advance so that the Thirteenth Congress would be a success.

64. The Secretary of the Regional Preparatory Meeting recalled how the theme of the Thirteenth Crime Congress and its agenda items and workshops had been carefully identified and adopted by the General Assembly with a view to mainstreaming the work and deliberations of the Congress, the only global conference on matters relating to crime prevention and criminal justice, into the overall United Nations development agenda and deliberations on the development agenda beyond 2015. In that regard, he highlighted how the Congress theme and its substantive items and workshops were closely interconnected so as to feed each other in an upstream-downstream relationship. With a view to reflecting that close connection between the substantive items and the topics of the workshops, it was proposed to cluster the discussion as follows:

(a) Item 3 (Successes and challenges in implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and to support sustainable development) was discussed together with workshop 1 (Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders);

(b) Item 4 (International cooperation, including at the regional level, to combat transnational organized crime) was discussed together with workshop 2 (Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants: successes and challenges in criminalization, in mutual legal assistance and in effective protection of witnesses and trafficking victims);

(c) Item 5 (Comprehensive and balanced approaches to prevent and adequately respond to new and emerging forms of transnational crime) was discussed together with workshop 3 (Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to evolving forms of crime, such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, including lessons learned and international cooperation);

(d) Item 6 (National approaches to public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice) was discussed with workshop 4 (Public contribution to crime prevention and raising awareness of criminal justice: experiences and lessons learned).

65. The UNODC Regional Representative for the Middle East and North Africa presented the regional programme on drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice reform in the Arab States for the period 2010-2015 and achievements so far in the implementation of its three subprogrammes, which covered countering illicit trafficking, organized crime and terrorism, promoting integrity and building justice, and drug prevention and health. The UNODC representative to the Gulf Cooperation Council countries outlined ongoing initiatives and efforts to expand strategic partnerships with the countries in the Gulf and with the secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council in order to build national capacities and foster international cooperation in the fields of drug control, combating organized crime and criminal justice reform.

D. Election of officers

66. At its 1st meeting, on 3 February 2014, the Meeting elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

Chair:	Abdullah Yousuf al-Maal (Qatar)
Vice-Chair:	Abdullah bin Fakhri al-Ansari (Saudi Arabia)
Rapporteur:	Abdullatif Mohammed Mohammed al-Doraibi (Yemen)

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

67. Also at its 1st meeting, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda, which read as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

4. Substantive items on the agenda of the Thirteenth Congress:

   (a) Successes and challenges in implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and to support sustainable development;

   (b) International cooperation, including at the regional level, to combat transnational organized crime;

   (c) Comprehensive and balanced approaches to prevent and adequately respond to new and emerging forms of transnational crime;

   (d) National approaches to public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice.

5. Topics to be considered by workshops within the framework of the Thirteenth Congress:

   (a) Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders;

   (b) Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants: successes and challenges in criminalization, in mutual legal assistance and in effective protection of witnesses and trafficking victims;

   (c) Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to evolving forms of crime, such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, including lessons learned and international cooperation;

   (d) Public contribution to crime prevention and raising awareness of criminal justice: experiences and lessons learned.

6. Recommendations for the Thirteenth Congress.

7. Adoption of the report of the Meeting.

68. At the same meeting, the Meeting approved its organization of work. The list of documents before the Meeting is contained in the annex to the present document.

IV. Adoption of the report and closure of the Meeting

69. At its 6th meeting, on 5 February 2014, the Meeting considered and adopted its report, as orally amended.

Annex

List of documents

A/CONF.222/PM.1	Discussion guide
A/CONF.222/RPM.2/L.1	Provisional annotated agenda
A/CONF.222/RPM.2/L.2	Draft report